

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for providing limited access to information needed to conduct an audit of a complex system comprising:

a host computer system in communication with other computer systems, said host computer system operating an interactive information management program having a graphical image of said complex system;

a first database in communication with the host computer system, said first database having information related to the complex system and said first database linked to the information management program such that features of the complex system shown on the graphical image are each logically linked to information in the first database corresponding to the feature in the complex system;

a second database on a first remote computer system in communication with the host computer system, said second database having information related to the complex system and said second database linked to the information management program such that features of the complex system shown on the graphical image are each logically linked to information in the second database corresponding to the feature in the complex system;

a user access terminal remote from the host computer and in communication with the host computer, wherein the user access terminal displays the graphical image communicated from host computer system, and the user can point to a feature on the graphical image displayed on the terminal to cause the interactive information management program to retrieve information corresponding to the pointed to feature from the first and second databases and display the retrieved information at the user terminal.

2. A system as in claim 1 wherein the complex system is a nuclear power reactor and the graphical image is an array of nuclear fuel rods in the reactor.

3. A system as in claim 2 wherein the graphical image of the nuclear fuel rods is linked to the first database having information regarding the operational history of each of said fuel rods in the reactor and is linked to the second database having information regarding the assembly of each of said fuel rods.

4. A system as in claim 3 wherein the graphical image of the array of nuclear fuel rods shows a grid arrangement of fuel rods in a specific nuclear power reactor selected by the user.

5. A system as in claim 4 wherein the grid arrangement of fuel rods shown in the graphical image changes as the user selects a different reactor.

6. A system as in claim 1 wherein the host computer includes a security program limiting access to information in the first and second database depending on access rights of the user.

7. A system as in claim 1 wherein the information in the first database includes a video image of a feature of the complex system selectable on the graphical image.

8. A system as in claim 7 wherein the video image is of a fuel rod assembly process.

9. A system as in claim 7 wherein the video image is of a fuel rod replacement process in a nuclear reactor.

10. A method for providing remote access to information needed to conduct an audit of a complex system, using a system including a host computer, a first database, and a remote user terminal, comprising the steps of:

a. operating on the host computer system an interactive information management program having a graphical image of the

complex system, wherein the graphical image shows selectable features of the complex system;

b. a user remotely accessing the interactive information management system via the remote user terminal, wherein said graphical image is displayed on the remote terminal;

c. the said user interacts with the image displayed on the remote terminal by selecting at least one feature on the image corresponding to a feature of the complex system that the user has selected to audit;

d. the selection of the at least one feature is conveyed from the remote terminal to interactive information management system in the host computer, which retrieves data from said first database related to the selected feature, and

e. the data related to the selected feature is displayed on the remote terminal to the user.

11. A method as in claim 10 wherein the complex system is a nuclear power reactor and the graphical image is an array of nuclear fuel rods in the reactor.

12. A method as in claim 10 wherein the graphical image of the nuclear fuel rods is linked to the first database having information regarding the operational history of each of said fuel rods in the reactor, and is linked to the second database having information regarding the assembly of each of said fuel rods, wherein said second database is remotely located at another computer system.

13. A method as in claim 12 wherein the graphical image of the array of nuclear fuel rods shows an arrangement of fuel rods in a specific nuclear power reactor selected by the user.

14. A method as in claim 13 wherein the arrangement of fuel rods shown in the graphical image changes as the user selects a different reactor.

15. A method as in claim 10 wherein the host computer includes a security program limiting access to information in the first and second database depending on access rights of the user.

16. A method as in claim 10 wherein the information in the first database includes a video image of a feature of the complex system selectable on the graphical image.

17. A method as in claim 16 wherein the video image is of a fuel rod assembly process.

18. A method as in claim 16 wherein the video image is of a fuel rod replacement process in a nuclear reactor.